GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4095
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Coersion under SBM
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people in rural areas are being coerced by the officials to construct toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission including threatening them with circulation in social media;
(b) if so, the action taken against the erring officials;
(c) the financial assistance extended to individual households to construct toilets;
(d) whether the compulsion is leading to rampant debt among the people; and
(e) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government to ease the burden on the public to achieve the Government's target under SBM?

Answer

(a) & (b). The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), SBM (G) aims at bringing about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation. It also aims at accelerating the sanitation coverage to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October, 2019. The programme focuses upon motivating the communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions through awareness creation, health education and bringing about behaviour change. The SBM (G) guidelines provide flexibility to the states in the implementation of the Scheme so as to enable the States to utilise the provisions under the Mission effectively without any kind of violations. The mission objective is to associate the public for the effective implementation of the scheme.

(c) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM(G)}, there is a provision for providing an incentive of Rs.12,000 for the construction of individual household latrine (IHHL) to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and to identified Above Poverty Line (APL) households (all SCs /STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women-headed households).

(d) and (e) The financial assistance provided by the Government under the programme is in the form of incentive to individual households undertaking the construction of toilets. The primary objective is to bring about behavioural change motivating the people to use toilets. Apart from the funds provided under the Scheme, the SBM (G) guidelines also provides for other sources of funds which can be utilised.
The guidelines provide for Revolving funds. This fund can be accessed by APL households not covered for Incentives under the guidelines. The Revolving fund can be given to Societies, Self Help Groups or other groups as decided by the States, whose credit worthiness is established, for providing cheap finance to their members for the construction of toilets. Loan from this fund is recovered in 12-18 instalments. States also have the flexibility to decide the other terms and conditions for sanction of the Revolving fund. Similarly, the guidelines also have provision for Micro-financing of toilet construction to enable provision of low cost financing to individual households for construction of toilets and to leverage the network of financial institutions.